

RE: Convoy Updates - January 30th

From: "Williams, Caroline" </o=pco-pmo-bnet/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=cabb45d2a6d84daf99b621b96fc53c53-ca_williams">
To: "Blair, Bill" **Personal Info.**
Cc: "Astravas, Zita" <zita.astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Date: Mon, 31 Jan 2022 01:01:09 +0000

One more update – OPS has released its 5th NR on the protests. Key points are:

- OPS notes that the protestors plan to remain in place beyond tonight, and as such continue to recommend against travel to the downtown core. Those who can are encouraged to work from home.
- While officers have avoided issuing tickets and towing vehicles “so as to not instigate confrontations”, they note that confrontations and de-escalations have been a regular occurrence.
- Initial estimates on policing the demonstrations are put at approximately **\$800,000/day**.

Update 5: Weekend Demonstration

(Ottawa)— Throughout the weekend, the Ottawa Police Service and its partners have been actively and patiently managing a well-funded, major demonstration in the downtown core. We have seen multiple cases of disruptive, inappropriate and threatening behaviour from demonstrators.

Police are working with organizers to facilitate the safe departure of individuals and vehicles and to ensure safety.

Police are aware that many demonstrators have announced their intention to stay in place. This will continue to cause major traffic, noise and safety issues in the downtown core. **We urge all residents to avoid travel to the core.**

Police have avoided ticketing and towing vehicle so as not to instigate confrontations with demonstrators. Still, confrontations and the need for de-escalation has regularly been required.

Along with the safety issues, costs to businesses and social costs, the Ottawa Police continues to tally the financial costs of the policing costs which are estimated at more than **\$800,000 a day.**

If you work in the downtown core, **please plan to work from home if possible.**

Please adjust your plans in the downtown core. If your children attend school in the downtown area, please check with them to see if the school is open tomorrow.

Avoid travel into the downtown core tomorrow.

We are immensely proud of our police members and partners who have worked tirelessly to plan for and manage this demonstration over the past few days under difficult circumstances of extreme cold temperatures and difficult and challenging treatment from some demonstrators.

Public safety remains our number one priority.

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From: Williams, Caroline
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 7:33 PM
To: 'Blair, Bill' **Personal Info. Irrelevant**
Cc: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Convoy Updates - January 30th

Hopefully the last update from me tonight sir. The RCMP reports that the demonstrator numbers have started to decline for the evening.

From the RCMP:

There are less than 200 people reported at this time on Parliament Hill and approximately 150 people on Wellington St. OPS reporting that crowd is in a good mood and are policing themselves. Demonstrators are walking around advising others not to misbehave.

Our operational center will continue to be running tomorrow to support the resumption of Parliament. You can expect an update from us in the morning.

From: Williams, Caroline
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 6:25 PM
To: 'Blair, Bill' **Personal Info. Irrelevant**
Cc: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Convoy Updates - January 30th

Latest GOC update:

New information in bold as of 17:00 EDT

Overview

- Effective 15 Jan and 22 Jan, respectively, Canada and the U.S. began requiring COVID-19 vaccination as mandatory for all individuals, including truckers, entering their borders for both essential and non-essential reasons. These changes to travel restrictions led to several demonstrations nationally, including in Downtown Ottawa.

Key Points

Details on Demonstrations

- **Currently there are, approximately, 1,000 to 1,100 people on Parliament Hill and 1,000 people in the vicinity (on Wellington).**
- **According to organizers speaking to protestors Sunday, some plan to stay well past the end of the weekend. [Link](#)**
- On 29 Jan a NOTAM was issued with an airspace restriction over downtown Ottawa extending from Victoria Island to New Edinburgh, including the Byward

- Market, Lowertown and over the Ottawa River, to include a section of downtown Hull/Gatineau.
- Additional demonstrations took place in several cities across Canada.
- Demonstrations continue at several border points of entry, notably Windsor, ON, Coutts, AB, and Emerson, MB.
 - **Coutts AB: 30 Jan – At 12:00 EDT**, the commercial parking lot and highway egress from the POE were completely full of commercial vehicles that had been cleared by CBSA. As there was no more room for additional vehicles to proceed into Canada the gates were closed across PIL. The port remains open however the highway remains closed at this time due to the blockade north of the POE.
 - **Ambassador Bridge, Windsor ON: 30 Jan – At 12:24 EDT**, approximately 22 vehicles were involved in a convoy demonstration near the POE. There were no impacts to CBSA operations.
 - **Emerson, MB: 30 Jan – At 11:30 EDT**, a small convoy began north of the port, staff are reporting issues on site due to twinned vehicles blocking the highway southbound approximately 8Km north of the port. There are no impacts to CBSA operations.

Preparedness and Response efforts

- The GOC hosted a Significant Event Information Sharing Protocol (SEISP) teleconference at 13:00 EDT, with partners at TBS and PCO. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Mon 31 Jan at 13:00 EDT.
- On 29 Jan, a Request for Federal Assistance (RFA) from Ontario was approved for access to Cartier Square Drill Hall parking lot, for staging of Ottawa Police Service (OPS) operations.
- OPS reports the following activities:
 - Priorities continue to include: Management of traffic issues (including gridlock); Keeping peace and order; Protecting monuments; and Addressing threatening and/or high risk behaviour.
 - Focus will shift to traffic approaches that move crowds and vehicles out of the downtown core. This will require a significant number of police and city resources. [Link](#)
 - Several criminal investigations are underway in relation to the desecration of the National War Memorial/Terry Fox statue, threatening/illegal/intimidating behaviour to police/city workers and other individuals and damage to a city vehicle. [Link](#)
 - The Chaudière Bridge is closed but is the point of entry for hospital workers, first responders etc. coming from the QC side.
- **The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) indicated that it is exploring the possibility that classes may be cancelled on 31 Jan, due to the ongoing protests.** [Link](#)
- For information on planned traffic routes and road closures as of 11:30 EDT please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)
- The following [Link](#) is an update to all of the road closures in the City of Ottawa as of 15:00 EDT, 30 Jan: [Link](#)

Overall Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources):

- The majority of the event has been peaceful thus far.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- **The demonstrators may stay beyond the weekend and there is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.**

From: Williams, Caroline
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 5:05 PM
To: 'Blair, Bill' [Personal Info. redacted]
Cc: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Convoy Updates - January 30th

Good afternoon sir,

Couple of items to flag. RCMP have reported they've received a media request regarding reports that Nazi symbols are being spray painted on Parliamentary Precinct buildings. They're coordinating a response with PPS and PSPC.

Per public RCMP traffic alerts the blockade at the Coutts, AB border crossing is still ongoing. Premier Kenney has tweeted a statement calling for it to end, noting it is a violation of the Alberta Traffic Safety Act. ([Tweet](#))

OPS put out [another update at 2PM](#), reiterating that their priorities continue to include:

- Management of traffic issues (including gridlock);
- Keeping peace and order;
- Protecting monuments; and
- Addressing threatening and/or high risk behaviour.

They describe police resources as "fully stretched and fully engaged".

The group behind the GoFundMe held its press conference earlier this afternoon as well. Andrew Lawton, who is employed by the True North Centre, said that only "independent journalists" were invited. According to Lawton's tweets the organizers plan to have the protest go on "as long as it takes". They plan to use the GoFundMe's \$8M for fuel, food, and lodging for truckers to continue the protest, and they may also potentially offer truckers compensation for lost wages from being unable to work.

When asked why the focus was on Ottawa when many vaccine mandates were imposed by provinces, organizers noted that while they started at the top provincial movements are going to follow. ([Full Twitter thread of press conference available here](#))

[RCMP UPDATE, 3:30PM] Event Overview:

- Convoys totalling approximately 2950 vehicles have arrived in the NCR. Unknown number of vehicles in the downtown core. **Approximately 750 people reported at this time on Parliament Hill and approximately 300 people on Wellington St. Mood remains positive.**
- Reports of a small convoy coming in from Arnprior, ON (20 vehicles).
- Organizers have indicated that there will be speakers in Confederation Park on 2022-01-31.
- The status of interprovincial bridges is as follows:
 - MacDonald Cartier has reopened to 2 lanes in each direction;
 - Alexandra Bridge remains closed;
 - Portage Bridge is closed in both directions due to demonstrations;
 - Chaudiere Bridge Southbound is closed; and

- Champlain Bridge remains open.

Communications:

- OPS has issued a second media update, shortly after the first, regarding the desecration of the War Memorial investigation, as well as the ongoing threatening/illegal/intimidating behaviour against police officers/city workers and other individuals, which included damage to a city vehicle.
- National Division communications has received two (2) media requests, the first surrounding reports that Nazi symbols are being spray painted on buildings within the Parliamentary Precinct (coordinating a response with PPS, PSPC) and a second request surrounding misinformation that is being reported on crowd/convoy sizes and is being attributed to the RCMP/OPS. For the latter, partners have agreed that details on the size of the demonstrations will only be released once the event has concluded.

And lastly the following update has been sent to MPs from the Sargent at Arms. You might have already received it directly:

Security information

Given the current situation on Parliament Hill with regard to the Freedom Convoy, security plans are being developed to ensure your personal safety should you need to access the House of Commons precinct in the coming days. The plans will be shared with you later today.

The sharing of security-related information could jeopardize your security and safety, that of Parliamentarians and that of all those who serve on the Hill. Please do not share this information.

Patrick McDonnell
Sergeant-at-Arms

From: Williams, Caroline
Sent: Sunday, January 30, 2022 11:01 AM
To: 'Blair, Bill' Personal Info. Irrelevant
Cc: Astravas, Zita <Zita.Astravas@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Subject: Convoy Updates - January 30th

Good morning sir,

Two sitreps from the RCMP so far this morning, which have been consolidated below. Minimal protestors around the Hill so far this morning. Current events that we're tracking include an 11AM church service on Parliament Hill, an 11AM march towards Parliament Hill led by Maxime Beriner. A press conference is scheduled for later today, location and time still TBD.

OPS published the attached NR earlier this morning, an update on what happened overnight. Points of note from the NR:

- Large crowds remained in the downtown core throughout the night and were actively managed by police. Officers encountered several challenges with demonstrators, including sporadic road blockages by trucks, which officers

- worked to clear. **These high-risk situations were de-escalated and resolved with no arrests.**
- National monuments will be protected and should be respected by all. **Barricades are installed to block any vehicular access to the path in front of the National War Memorial.**
- OPS continues to advise against travel to the downtown core.

And a few stories you should be aware of sir:

- Former US President Donald Trump addressed the protests during a rally yesterday, stating "...We want these great Canadian truckers to know, we are with them all the way!" ([Video clip](#))
- The Shepherds of Good Hope, a downtown Ottawa homeless shelter, reportedly had staff harassed by convoy participants who were demanding free meals from their soup kitchen. ([Tweet](#))

[RCMP] Event Overview:

- Convoys totalling approximately 2950 vehicles have arrived in the NCR. Unknown number of vehicles in the downtown core.
Approximately a dozen protestors reported at this time on Parliament Hill. Mood remains positive. Foot traffic in the downtown core is picking up again.
- OPS reporting individual actions over night resulted in a broken window to a City of Ottawa heavy vehicle and the displacement of Ottawa paramedics from the downtown core, for their safety.
- Trucks are trying to get around the City of Ottawa heavy vehicles that are blocking roads downtown.
- Alexandria and Portage bridges remain closed to traffic coming into the NCR.
- Jersey pillars have been placed on the perimeter of the War Memorial.
- Reports of protestors harassing the staff at the Shepherds of Good Hope (230 block of Murray St.) while seeking meals from the soup kitchen.

Operational Information:

- According to a Facebook post, the group Faradaa are expected to meet at the intersection of Laval and Laurier St. at 1100hrs. The group is planning a march to Parliament Hill. The expected number of participants remains unconfirmed at this time.
- A Twitter post was located, which made reference to the following three scheduled events for today:
 - 1100hrs- Church service on Parliament Hill
 - 1100hrs- March from 1 Nicholas St. to Parliament Hill led by PPC leader Maxime Bernier
 - Afternoon- Press Conference by organizers (event time and location TBD)
- A post was shared to the Canada Unity page 9 hours ago which reads "So we want to prove to Justin Trudeau that we're not a FRINGE minority. We're preparing the '2nd Wave Convoy' getting ready to head to Ottawa."

- PPC leader Maxime BERNIER is expected to speak on Parliament Hill today at 1200hrs.

Communications:

- There continues to be a high level of media attention on the protest (approximately 89 news articles this morning), which includes domestic and international coverage.
- **Former POTUS Trump spoke at a rally in Conroe, TX and mentioned the Canadian truckers.**
A Tweet posted last evening at 2101hrs states " President Trump sends a message to the Canadian truckers: 'We are with them all the way!'" A video is linked to the Tweet. In the video, Trump says: "The Canadian truckers, you've been reading about. Who are resisting, bravely, these lawless mandates are doing more to defend American freedom than our own leaders by far. And want those great Canadian truckers to know that we are with them all the way. They are.. they've really shown something.". The video has been viewed more than 27.4k times.
- International media coverage continue to increase, with the comments made by former POTUS Trump last night. Al-Jazeera and the New York Times continue to cover this story.
- Hashtags on Twitter associated with the demo do not appear to be trending as much, with the exception of some that are negative towards the protest activity.
- One media request was received this morning from Radio-Canada asking if the RCMP had any incidents to report from overnight.
- OPS issued a News Release this morning summarizing the events throughout the evening and reminding residents/visitors to **refrain from travelling to the downtown core.**